

September 24, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF METZ

SUMMARY:

On Friday, September 27th at 2:00 p.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will hold a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the National World War II Memorial to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Metz, a difficult and costly siege led by Patton's Third Army, which brought the Allies ever-closer to Germany's western defenses.

Patton's Third Army launched the attack to capture the fortified city of Metz as part of the nascent Lorraine Campaign. The campaign against Metz proved a difficult and costly siege, yet its completion brought the Allies ever-closer to Germany's western defenses. The Battle of Metz was a slow-moving, brutal, and bloody battle that lasted more than two months, with the Germans defenders inflicting heavy casualties.

The Battle of Metz 75th Anniversary Commemoration is part of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial's four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration, which kicked off on Pearl Harbor Day 2016 and will go until VJ-Day 2020. Friends is the only organization hosting a full four-year 75th Anniversary Commemoration, marking every major battle in which American troops participated during World War II.

WHO:

- World War II veterans; including WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veteran Harry Miller
- Charlie Held, whose brother Richard C. Held fought and died in the Battle of Metz 75 years ago
- Colonel John Fenzel, USA (Ret)
- U.S. Army Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Todd Wolf, USA
- Military District of Washington

WHAT:

World War II veterans and family members will present a wreath at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in honor of all who served and in remembrance of all those killed or wounded during the Battle of Metz. The Military District of Washington will provide military support.

WHERE:

National World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20024

WHEN:

Friday, September 27, 2:00 p.m.

*Media can RSVP to Thalia Ertman at tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org or to Scott Warner at swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial's WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration is generously sponsored by AT&T. Generous support has also been provided by the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation and Worthington Industries.

About Friends of the National World War II Memorial (www.wwiimemorialfriends.org):

Founded in 2007, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to honoring and preserving the national memory of World War II and to creating the next "Greatest Generation" of tomorrow. To meet this mission, Friends sponsors an annual public lecture series featuring prominent historians; hosts an annual teachers conference in Washington, DC; and collects and archives video interviews of World War II veterans and other members of the Greatest Generation. Additionally, Friends has the lead responsibility in planning, staging, and funding five or more major national commemorative events annually and is currently sponsoring a national four-year World War II 75th anniversary commemoration. Friends relies on private support to breathe new life into the Memorial and to ensure that it continues to serve as a living lesson for all Americans.

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